

# Russian Reverses West-East Spy Flow

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The person exposed and put on public trial for pumping "secrets" across the Iron Curtain this week was not a Westerner aiding communism for ideological reasons or for pay.

This time the traffic had been from East to West. The secrets were well worth having. Unofficially it became known that Oleg Penkovsky was the best source of secret Soviet intelligence services had ever yet tapped; and the reasons were ideology and cash.

## Initiative Taken

[The Soviet Supreme Court Saturday sentenced Penkovsky to capital punishment and his codefendant, British businessman Greville Wynne, to three years in prison and five years in a labor camp.]

Mr. Penkovsky was not origi-

nally a target of Western intelligence. He was not sought out, enticed, seduced, blackmailed by Western agents. On the contrary he himself took the initiative in locating a Western market for his material. Apparently he had original difficulty in persuading Western agents to believe that he really did want to sell bona fide information.

Eventually he did establish contact and for about a year regularly pumped material from the Soviet Union to Western agents.

He was paid for doing this. Apparently the pay was generous, for he seems to have indulged freely in expensive forms of entertainment. According to the Soviet prosecutor in the big spy trial in Moscow's Supreme Court Mr.

Penkovsky became an "immoral careerist."

But did he do it only for money to indulge his own tastes? Reading between the lines of his testimony there were hints here and there that he was disillusioned with communism before he thought of turning his high position in Moscow official circles to personal advantage.

The Soviet prosecutor was obviously at some pains to present Mr. Penkovsky in the most unattractive possible light. The overtones suggest that Mr. Penkovsky broke with Moscow ideology before he began the commercial marketing of his material.

## Goods, Not Ideas

There have been defections from communism before but never a Soviet one as high up as this. Of course he got careless and was caught before making good his final escape, which is unfortunate for himself and shut off his flow of information to the West. The fact remains that the thinking of the high Soviet official is no longer immune to new ideas.

Little detail is likely ever to be learned about Mr. Penkovsky's real life and real motives for his behavior. He may or may not have had some good qualities and courage.

This we can presume: that he was no true believer in Communism; in him the ardor and faith of the original early Communists had burned out. He has provided the West with another piece of evidence of evolution in Soviet society. It is losing its grip not only on

the people but even on the officials.

There appears to be a deliberate and general shutting off of cultural-type communications between East and West. A distinguished group of Western writers invited to Warsaw to meet their opposite numbers were told that their trip had been "postponed." Sir Charles Snow and Graham Greene were among the Western writers.

But in the middle of the Penkovsky trial a British trade delegation arrived in Moscow and was greeted with more than usual expressions of welcome and by assertions that Soviet-British trade could and

## The World This Week

should be increased. The objection in Moscow is not to Western goods but to Western ideas.

Stepan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, has arrived in Rome after having had meetings in Warsaw with Wladyslaw Gomulka First Secretary of the Polish Communist Party. The implication is that a major pattern of improved relations between the Vatican and the governments in Eastern Europe is being worked out.

Four Hungarian Bishops have been released from years of house arrest. There are reports that Archbishop Beran of Prague also will be released, plus Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary.